

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A computer system comprising:
 - a driver interface including a plurality of output buffers;
 - a receiver interface coupled to the plurality of output buffers of said driver interface via interconnect, said interconnect comprising a plurality of traces of varying lengths; and
 - a programmable delay element coupled to said driver interface, said delay element being programmed to offset switching of said output buffers with respect to each other and to delay switching of output signals of said driver interface said output buffers by a delay corresponding to a length of a trace traveled by a respective signal coupled to a respective buffer.
2. (Original) The computer system of claim 1, wherein said delay is inversely proportional to said length.
3. (Original) The computer system of claim 1, wherein said delay is proportional to a difference between said length and a length of a longest trace.
4. (Original) The computer system of claim 1, wherein said receiver interface is wider than said driver interface.
5. (Original) The computer system of claim 1, wherein said driver interface is coupled to a memory controller, and said receiver interface is coupled to memory.
6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The computer system of claim 1, wherein no delay is introduced in a signal connected to a longest trace.

8. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 1, wherein said delay element is includes a delay locked loop.

9. (Currently amended) A computer system comprising:

a plurality of output latches of a first interface;

interconnect coupling said output latches to a second interface and comprising a plurality of traces of varying lengths, said traces being configured to propagate signals from said output latches to said second interface;

a plurality of multiplexers, each multiplexer coupled between a latch of said output latches and a delay element comprising a plurality of variable delay outputs; and

a plurality of programmable registers, each register coupled to a multiplexer of said multiplexers, said registers being programmable to select one of said plurality of variable delay outputs to offset switching of said output latches with respect to each other and in accordance with a length of a trace that propagates a signal of said latch.

10. (Original) The computer system of claim 9, said plurality of variable delay outputs comprising a clock signal and phase-shifted versions of said clock signal.

11. (Original) The computer system of claim 9, wherein said first interface is coupled to a memory controller, and said second interface is coupled to memory.

12. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

connecting a first interface to a second interface with interconnect comprising traces configured to propagate signals, said traces having varying lengths; and

programming a delay element to offset switching of signals output by said first interface with respect to each other and to delay said signals output by said first interface for propagation to said second interface by a delay corresponding to respective lengths of traces propagating said output signals.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
 - providing a plurality of variable delay outputs from said delay element; and
 - selecting one of said plurality in accordance with a length of a trace of said traces.
14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said delay is inversely proportional to said respective lengths.
15. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said delay is proportional to a difference between said respective lengths and a length of a longest trace.
16. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said programming is performed by software.
17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein said software is a BIOS program.
18. (Currently amended) An interconnect for a computer system, comprising:
 - a plurality of traces, each having a respective length;
 - a plurality of programmable delay outputs, each provided on a ~~terminal~~ driver end of one of the traces, and characterized by a delay to offset switching, with respect to each other, of signals coupled to said plurality of traces, the delay corresponding to a difference between the length of the respective trace and the length of a longest trace.
19. (Original) The interconnect of claim 18, wherein no delay output is provided for the longest trace.
20. (Currently amended) A computer system comprising:
 - first and second agents; and
 - an interconnect coupled to the first and second agents and comprising:
 - a plurality of traces, each having a respective length; and

a plurality of delay outputs, each provided on a ~~terminal~~ driver end of one of the traces, and characterized by a programmable delay to offset switching of outputs of one of said first and second agents with respect to each other and corresponding to a difference between the length of the respective trace and the length of a longest trace.

21. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 20, wherein ~~said a~~ a terminal end of a trace is at a receiver interface of either of said first and second agents.

22 - 23 (Canceled)

24. (Original) A computer system comprising:

- a receiver interface coupled to interconnect comprising a plurality of traces of varying lengths; and

- a programmable delay element coupled to said receiver interface, said delay element being programmable to delay sampling of received signals of said receiver interface by a delay corresponding to a length of a trace traveled by a received signal.

25. (Original) The computer system of claim 24, wherein said delay element comprises a plurality of multiplexers, each multiplexer coupled between a buffer of said interface and a plurality of variable delay outputs; and

- a plurality of programmable registers, each register coupled to a multiplexer of said multiplexers, said registers being programmable to select one of said plurality of variable delay outputs in accordance with a length of a trace traveled by a received signal.

26. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

- connecting a receiver interface to interconnect comprising traces configured to propagate signals, said traces having varying lengths;

- providing a plurality of variable delay outputs from a delay element; and

- programming a ~~said~~ delay element to offset switching of outputs coupled to said interconnect and to delay signals from said outputs received at said receiver interface

by a delay corresponding to respective lengths of traces propagating said received signals.

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 26, further comprising:

~~providing a plurality of variable delay outputs from said delay element; and~~
selecting one of said plurality in accordance with a length of a trace of said traces.

28. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein said delay is directly proportional to said respective lengths.

29. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein said programming is performed by software.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein said software is a BIOS program.

31. (New) The computer system of claim 1, wherein the programmable delay element comprises:

a phase-shifting device to output a plurality of clock signals phase-shifted with respect to each other; and

a plurality of selection devices each coupled to the plurality of phase-shifted clock signals;

the selection devices being programmed to select from among the plurality of phase-shifted clock signals to effect said offset and delay.